

# #JR NADVIBES2022 NEWSLETTER

## 2022 JR. NAD NATIONAL CONFERENCE



### RECAP ON JR NAD NATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

WRITTEN BY TY WILLEY

On March 16th, 2022, people from various Jr. NAD Chapters across the United States attended the 2022 Jr. NAD national conference. Despite the aww's of every teenager, the conference is VIRTUAL yet the fine Jr. NADers of California School for the Deaf, Riverside, have worked so hard to radiate vibes at this conference!

As the members of Jr. NAD emerged into Zoom on their various devices, they looked at each other. TWO HUNDRED, NINETY-FOUR PARTICIPANTS found themselves in one big virtual room, the vibes were felt!



Just as the event began, our conference emcees appeared on the screen. They excitedly signed, expressing their excitement as they explain on their motto of the year, #JRNADVIBES2022. What are vibes, Daniel asked, and Chloe responded that a vibe is how you wake up in the morning and decide what kind of vibes you want to share. The power of vibes! Everyone was sent to the breakrooms to meet their fellow JrNADers in an icebreaker activity with 6-8 people in each room to meet other JrNADers outside their schools in more than two years!

After the Icebreaker activity, our keynote presenter Arlene N'galle-Paryani delved into the Purpose of Our Existence. Arlene expands on the theme, describing her journey as a Black person and Deaf woman. She emphasized how to find our path while radiating a vibe, regardless of everyone's pace. How true!

Introducing Melissa Draganac-Hawk, the NAD President, she talked about current controversial issues such as educational equality and promotes NAD as a conduit for such issues to go through. Bidding farewell, she delivered her last speech as the President of NAD after serving fourteen years.

Wrapping up the first portion of the conference up, the observers departed while the delegates remained to participate in a great Jr NAD tradition: The general assembly!

With two chosen delegates from each school, our Jr. NAD President Christian Jimenez and officers ran the general assembly by starting off with the nominations for two delegates to attend the NAD conference in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations to Willie Noble from Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and Gisella Visco from CSD Riverside! After the nominations, there was a motion for the process of selecting a host school for the next 2026 Jr. NAD Conference! New Mexico School for the Deaf made their bid and won! Congratulations to NMSD! The delegates proposed 12 motions, focusing in four categories of Mental Health, Youth, Accessibility & Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. The motions will be voted to the top five motions in order to deliver and present at the NAD Conference in Florida.



# THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE

**KEYNOTE PRESENTER:  
ARLENE NGALLE-PARYNI**

**BY CATALENE SACCHETTI**



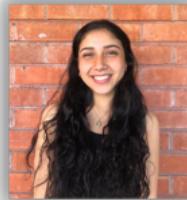
Arlene Ngalle was our guest speaker; her keynote presentation was called The Purpose of Our Existence. She talked about her journey with life and how she overcame several obstacles such as having a baby at an early age, having her house set on fire, and her struggles with emotions. Not only did she share openly about her life, she also talked about baggage and the topic of



failure and growth as well as exploring the vibe in us and how we can use our vibe to help our community. After her presentation, leaders had a group discussion about her presentation and how can we spread good vibes within community, self, school, etc. In my perspective this impacted leaders. After COVID-19 we forgot what leadership truly means and how community is important to not only us but important to keep the community alive so generations to come will grow. This entire convention was virtual, but it did not stop us from flourishing as young leaders. We are super thankful for her time in sharing her champ vibes!

## THEN AND NOW CONFERENCES!

**BY CHLOE DUARTE**



During my first year, I went to Jr NAD National Conference in Rochester, New York. I knew we would host the conference at our school in the school year 2021-2022. I was already overwhelmed with experiences and excitement at

Rochester. I had so many ideas for our conference in 2021-2022. Then, COVID-19 happened. We were not sure if we would have a conference. Until I returned to school last fall, we decided to keep the conference - virtually. From there, I was responsible for social media. I coordinated the committee to share the posts and vlogs about the conference. I chose that position because of the amazing experience I had in Rochester. I was part of the committee working on the conference 2019 video project. I collected every moment of what we did and learned in Rochester. It was so much fun. I was able to carry on that experience at our school using a social media platform - Our school's Jr NAD Instagram. Our social media hashtag is #JRNADVibes2022.

It was to help spread the awareness of Jr NAD over the nation.

I also was one of two Emcees.

The differences between in-person and virtual conferences are huge - big time, as I have seen for myself. Based on my experience in person in Rochester, there were various workshops and projects where we could discuss and talk to each other. Meanwhile, at our virtual conference, we cannot really do anything due to online. Instead, we tried our best to make it fun - and be creative with our program.

Best of all, I love being the Social Media Coordinator. I made sure that our good vibes (edits, colors, and creativity) go out of the screen that captured our conference participants' attention!



**#JRNADVIBES2022**

## MY FIRST EXPERIENCE EVER

BY JAXON ROTHERMUND



# SCHOOL-LED VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHOOLS EXPERIENCE

As CSDR Jr NAD member on the Conference Program Book Committee, I kept on adding a school on the page of the program book. The number of schools did not stop increasing until a couple of weeks before the Conference Day! Can you guess how many schools were involved in our virtual conference? 31 schools!!!

Was meeting students easy in the Zoom Meeting? Not really. It was challenging for me when I tried to meet other schools' observers and delegates during the conference in the Zoom's Break Rooms. It was so awkward to introduce myself to students whom I did not know! There were about 300 participants. 62 delegates and 163 observers from all over the nation!

Another challenging issue I have experienced was trying to figure out where the students are from. Our time zone is Pacific Standard Time Zone. We started at 8:30 am. That means some schools in the east would start at 11:30 am! I even met a student from Alaska! She started way earlier than 7:30 am!



However, meeting with other students in the break room was also fun! We got to play a game called - Two Truths and One Bluff. We shared two truths and one lie about ourselves. The observers and delegates in the break room would guess which one is a bluff. It was fun to know other people that way. Of course, I wish it was in person. It would be more fun. We might have continued chatting with each other after the ice breaker activity, but we did not have the chance to do so because we had to return to the main screen to listen to other presenters.

## EMPOWER OUR DEAF YOUTH OF TODAY

BY JADA ZAREMBKA



As a CSDR Jr NAD Treasurer, I was able to join in two meetings - Delegates' Round Table on March 9th and General Assembly on March 16th. I feel like it was a once in time experience for me. This kind of round table prepared us for the General Assembly on the next week. The delegates were only allowed to attend this kind of meeting. Christian Jimenez, CSDR Jr NAD President, led the Roundtable meeting and split four different groups to create proposals in the Zoom break rooms. Those groups are Mental Health, Youth, Accessibility, and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). We brainstormed three top motions from each category in the Zoom break rooms. It was fun knowing Jr NAD delegates from other schools. I am impressed to see how much the students care and advocate for our rights.

Lastly, I want to thank Chanel Bonheyo and Lizzie Sorkin from NAD. When I worked with Tony Wysinger as a Registration chair, Chanel and Lizzie were behind the scene with us for months. They allowed us to lead the conference on our own. They also were helpful with many good tips to make the best out of Round table and General Assembly. I will miss this kind of job and I hope to be a Jr NAD advisor in the future to empower our future students to lead this kind of experience, too!



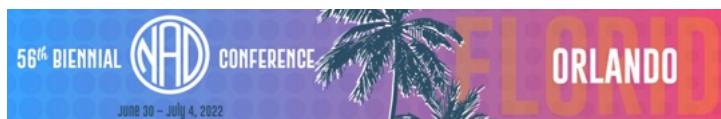
and i am wearing the black t-shirt with

#JRNAD2022

#JRNADVIBES2022



## Congratulations, Gisella Visco & Willie Noble!



## BEHIND THE SCENE!

BY ANGELA MARTINEZ,  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR



Seeing over so many people on the screen, handling the slides, and helping the people to see who is speaking by putting the spotlight on the presenter - was something that I thought would be fun. I practiced and practiced on Zoom features with my committee days and days before the Conference day. (Many thanks to our awesome committee for being patient with me!). Until the Conference Day, it was really harder than I thought! I had to take care of around 270 people in the Zoom waiting room. They changed their username to their first name, school name. I learned to be patient with some students who have not updated their Zoom names. I also was responsible for sending those students into about 20 break rooms for ice breakers and workshop discussions. It was pretty stressful to

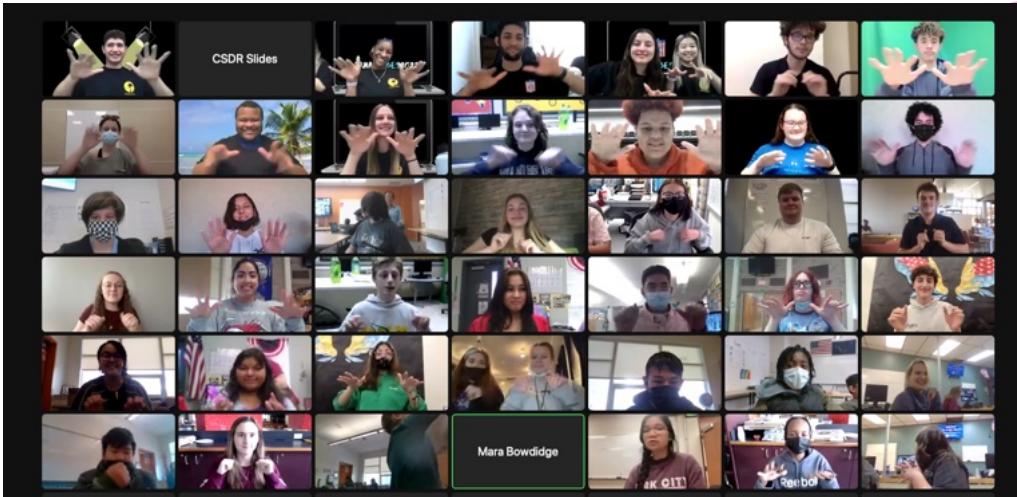


## DELEGATE'S GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

BY GISELLA VISCO

There are no words to explain how I felt that day. As a delegate, opportunity's door has opened wide for me. During the nominations for being a delegate at NAD Conference this summer, I was so nervous to give a speech about why the delegates out there should pick me to go to the NAD conference. Surprisingly, I started off with good vibes as I introduced myself. Even though I do not like giving speeches, I opened myself up by letting them know that I will bring many great ideas and concerns to the NAD conference. I will make sure that our Deaf youths' struggles and frustrations are being seen at the conference. Even myself as a proud deaf person, you have no idea how much I am really amazed to be appointed to be National Jr NAD delegate. It really took me out of my comfort zone! I look forward to representing the Jr NAD with another student. Willie Noble, from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind!!

make sure everyone had a room to attend. The cool part of this is seeing how my teammates were so positive and cheering on me. They knew I was overwhelmed with stress. I must say that I am grateful to Jeannette Zarembka, Jr NAD Advisor, who helped me learn new technology stuff and encouraged me to be part of this challenging experience. I could feel the positive vibes around her to get through these stressful moments!



## **SPONSORS BRING THE VIBES TOGETHER!**

BY RICHARD SILVA



With the big help of generous donations made by Gallaudet, Rochester Institute of Technology and Sorenson, the students were able to coordinate the Conference Swag boxes being sent out to all of the participants who have appeared in Jr NAD Conference and performed the surveys afterwards. Considering the fact that those organizations have no direct involvement in this virtual event, makes their contribution that more generous. We cannot think of any further words to express our gratitude. Not only that, we also have two other sponsors to recognize - Route 66 and CSDRAA Alumnus Association (CSDRAA).



CSDRAA was able to host a luncheon for our Jr NAD committee, delegates, and observers. They provided Chipotle lunches for all of us. We invited Erlinda Miller, CSDRAA President, to be our guest speaker as she gave us an inspiring presentation about our future being part of CSDRAA. We sat and listened to her as we wore our conference shirts made from Route 66 that day. Lastly, we enjoyed our beautiful Jr NAD cupcakes made by our Feast Assistant Teacher David Prince and his students.



## **BEING A SECRETARY DURING ROUND TABLE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

BY ZOEI PORTER



As a rookie secretary, Jr NAD Conference was definitely a rich experience for me. I was nervous when I met new faces at the Round Table - the week before the Conference Day. I was so surprised to see myself being relaxed and positive with delegates, especially those who were shy and quiet. I was in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion group. We discussed about LGBTQ+, Asians, Black and small deaf schools. A week later, we all met again in General Assembly after the conference. I thought it would be similar to Round Table. I was wrong. It is so different! I was nervous to write motions and follow what the delegates were saying in the meeting without missing anyone! There was one motion that I was thrilled to see in the General Assembly. We moved a motion that we need to prioritize and recognize small deaf schools across the nation. It felt so good for BIPOC and other students from small schools to have that attention from Jr NAD. This was an inspiring experience for me!

## LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

TONY WYSINGER



This was my second Jr NAD conference to attend. Yet, I can say this conference was one of my RICH and EMPOWERING experiences!

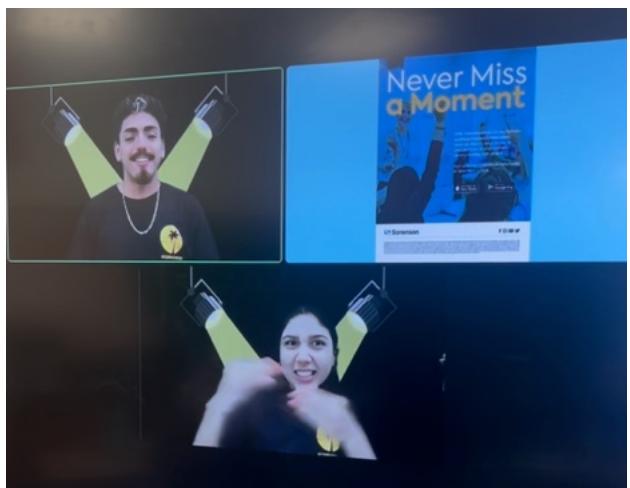
I was one of three co-chairs for this conference. My responsibility was logistics and registration. I worked closely with Jada Zarembka, Registration coordinator for many weeks. Our advisors allowed us to take care of emailing, communicating, and making decisions on our own. I enjoyed emailing Jr NAD advisors the most because it was really good to hear from them. I was able to answer their questions to help them to be ready for the conference.

On March 2nd, Jada and I led the Advisor meeting. That was a good kick off to our conference. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare the advisors about our conference to share with their observers and delegates



after the meeting. When the meeting started, I was so thrilled to see all advisors' faces after emailing them for a long time. I was unable to see their faces.

To wrap this up, I want to thank our two amazing sponsors - Jeannette and Erica. They sure have helped me to be prepared and learn to be a better communicator with our community. Also, I want to thank our team for being amazing committee. I love their honest opinions to make sure that our conference is on the top!



## IT IS HOW THE EMCEES VIBE!

BY DANIEL HERNANDEZ

It was a big honor to be an Emcee during the Jr NAD Conference! I was Jr NAD President during the year when COVID-19 changed our lives. I was worried that the conference would be cancelled. I was so relieved and excited that our conference still was on – even though it was a virtual one!

Before the conference, our Jr NAD advisors, Jeannette and Erica, believed in Chloe and me. They knew that we would send good vibes out there and asked us to be the emcees. I never thought I would be able to do it. I was excited and become courageous to spread my vibes all over in the Zoom with Chloe. We laughed together and had a good time to spread the energy to other students. Remember, during the process you are in –find a good atmosphere and clear your head. You will pick up the good vibes and then, you are on the roll! It is how we vibe!

Lastly, we send our luck and vibes to St. Mary School for the Deaf in Buffalo, New York for the 2024 Jr. NAD Conference! Long live Jr. NAD!



#JR NAD VIBES 2022

## OUR JR NAD CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



#JR NAD VIBES 2022

## ADVISORS' MEETING

WED, MARCH 2  
3:30PM-4:30PM PST

## DELEGATES' ROUNDTABLE

WED, MARCH 9  
9AM-10AM PST

## CONFERENCE

WED, MARCH 16  
9AM-12PM PST

#JR NAD VIBES 2022



## Special Thanks:

We, the CSDR Jr NAD Chapter, are grateful for your involvement and support in this era of the pandemic.

Chanel Bonheyo, NAD Youth Coordinator  
Lizzie Sordin, NAD Media Coordinator  
Nancy Hlibok Amann  
Tammy Mitchell  
Timothy Hile  
James Smith  
Wes Rinella  
Thomas Otto Bruc  
Todd  
David Prince  
Kyle Bayarsky

Ian Goldstein and his Feast Class  
Pat Downer  
Mara Bowdidge  
Julie Hurdiss  
Edward Peigneux  
Timothy Prince  
Craig Salonen  
IT Team  
Ty Willey  
Jr NAD Members  
Erika Thompson



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